What is claimed is:

1. A document reading apparatus presenting a plurality of documents designated as reading documents by a user, comprising:

5   a thematic hierarchy recognizing device recognizing a thematic hierarchy of each of the plurality of documents;

a topic extracting device extracting a topic that commonly appears in the plurality of documents based
10   on the recognized thematic hierarchies; and

a topic relation presenting device taking out a description part corresponding to the extracted topic from each of the plurality of documents and outputting the taken-out description parts.

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2. The document reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein regarding a topic set that consists of topics of various grading in the recognized thematic hierarchies, the topic extracting device calculates a relevance score
20   between topics of the topic set based on lexical similarity of description parts corresponding to each topic of the topic set, and extracts a topic set having a relevance score equal to or more than a threshold that is set based on inclusive relationship of topics.

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3. The document reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the topic relation presenting device presents the taken-out description parts side by side.

5 4. The document reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the topic relation presenting device presents the related parts and original documents in two windows, one of the windows including the related parts side by side and the other including the original documents side

10 by side.

5. The document reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the topic relation presenting device presents summaries of the related parts.

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6. The document reading apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the topic relation presenting device presents summaries of the related parts and original documents in two windows, one of the windows including the summaries

20 side by side and the other including the original documents side by side.

7. The document reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the topic relation presenting device presents

25 a plurality of thematic hierarchies corresponding to

the plurality of documents and a correspondence relationship between the plurality of thematic hierarchies based on the plurality of common topics in a drawing, and presents a designated part of the plurality

5   of documents in accordance with an instruction from the user given on the drawing.

8.   The document reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the topic relation presenting device sets

10   one document among the plurality of documents as a reference document, produces a new integrated document by merging the contents of the reference document with description parts of another document related to the reference document, and outputs the integrated document.

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9.   A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for a computer that presents a plurality of documents designated as reading documents by a user, the program causes the computer to perform:

20   recognizing a thematic hierarchy of each of the plurality of documents;

         extracting a topic that commonly appears in the plurality of documents based on the recognized thematic hierarchies; and

25   taking out a description part corresponding to the

extracted topic from each of the plurality documents and outputting the taken-out description part.

10.   A propagation signal propagating a program to a computer that presents a plurality of documents designated as reading document by a user, the program causes the computer to perform:

recognizing a thematic hierarchy of each of the plurality of documents;

extracting a topic that commonly appears on the plurality of documents based on the recognized thematic hierarchies; and

taking out a description part corresponding to the extracted topic from each of the plurality documents and outputting the taken-out description parts.

11.   A document presenting method of presenting a plurality of documents designated as reading documents by a user, comprising:

recognizing a thematic hierarchy of each of the plurality of documents;

extracting a topic that commonly appears in the plurality of documents based on the recognized thematic hierarchies; and

taking out a description part corresponding to the

extracted topic from each of the plurality documents and outputting the taken-out description parts.

12. A document reading apparatus presenting a plurality
5   of documents designated as reading documents by a user, comprising:

thematic hierarchy recognizing means for recognizing a thematic hierarchy of each of the plurality of documents;

10   topic extracting means for extracting a topic that commonly appears in the plurality of documents based on the recognized thematic hierarchies; and

topic relation presenting means for taking out a description part corresponding to the extracted topic

15   from each of the plurality documents and outputting the taken-out description parts.